

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1885.

The Judicial Usurpation.

When we said yesterday that Judges BOND and HUGHES had usurped the functions of the legislative, the executive, and the judicial departments of the State government of Virginia we did not exaggerate the facts. As was shown in our local columns yesterday, the law of Virginia prescribes the method of paying all moneys into the treasury, and provides that any person who shall pay in any other manner shall remain liable for such money. And yet in the face of this law—in contempt of the authority of the State and of the Legislature—a Circuit Court of the United States has issued an order commanding the Auditor not to refuse to receive coupons for taxes! In other words, that Court has undertaken to repeal a law of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to release a State officer from his obligation to obey that law.

The amount in controversy in the case of PARSONS, &c., was a little less than five thousand dollars—so little less that it is mortifying to consider it—and therefore the case cannot be taken up to the Supreme Court of the United States.

It may be supposed that if a State officer were imprisoned the Supreme Court would issue a writ of *habeas corpus* in his behalf. It has the right to do so. But that tribunal would refuse to entertain a petition for a writ of *habeas corpus* under such circumstances—a case of contempt of court, as it would be claimed to be by BOND and HUGHES.

As we said yesterday, a Circuit Court of the United States now fills the office of commissioner of the revenue. Mr. MURPHY, his assistants, clerks, and agents, are the persons authorized to issue licenses. They are by law required to issue them only to the proper persons—that is, to such persons as have paid for their licenses in money, and, in the case of liquor-licenses, to such persons only, we think, as the Hustings Court has granted permission to take out such licenses. But the Federal Circuit Court orders Mr. MURPHY to receive coupons for licenses, and to issue licenses to "any applicant" for such license!

Will Judge HUGHES take the responsibility of imprisoning all officers who under the law of the State refuse to receive coupons for taxes, and thus put an end to the State government? Will he appoint new officers in the place of the incarcerated ones, and become an "autocrat of all the Russias"? Will he pass new laws, or will he let the laws now on the statute-book remain there, and treat them with contempt?

Mr. TUCKER ought at once to introduce into the House of Representatives a bill giving to the State of Virginia (for the suit is really against the Commonwealth) a right of appeal in this particular case. By unanimous consent such a bill could be passed in ten minutes. It need not contain a hundred words. On the 16th of March a number of Virginia cases are to be heard by the Supreme Court of the United States. Let this one be added to the number. The very existence of the Commonwealth is imperiled, we might say, without such exaggeration; for if Judge HUGHES is to be allowed to set aside State laws, not because they are unconstitutional, but because he doesn't like them, then the State government has no reason for being. Recollect, in this connection, what we said yesterday—that the Supreme Court of the United States long ago decided that the State had under the Federal Constitution the right to require the genuineness of the coupons to be proved before she could be compelled to receive them for taxes.

Bluffing.

If the Republicans of Virginia desire, as some persons suppose they do, to draw the color line in the gubernatorial election of this year—that is, to appeal to the negro voters to put down the Democratic party because what was called "a riot" happened at Danville in 1883,—then such Republicans are indeed stricken with judicial blindness. The results of all such campaigns even in South Carolina, Louisiana, and Mississippi, where the negroes constitute a majority of the population, show that if that disagreeable issue is to be raised the Democrats will carry Virginia next fall by an increased majority. Nobody can foretell what MAYNOR will or will not do, but we are pretty sure that he is too good a strategist to raise the race question, or draw the color-line, in a State in which the white voters are in a majority of eighty thousand or more. We deem it more likely that he is "bluffing"—that is to say, would like to run GEORGE CARROLL, or Mr. BARBOUR, off the track as a gubernatorial candidate. Perhaps it may be somebody else whom he regards as a strong candidate, and who is in some way mixed up with the Danville riot. We

don't know who it is, but we do know that, though we think it would be much wiser and better for the two parties to divide on other issues, yet no Democrat need fear to enter the lists as gubernatorial candidate because his political opponents have chosen to charge him with more or less responsibility for the Danville riot. Colonel TOM WHITEHEAD has been considering this subject, and has reached the following conclusions:

"We believe the true Democratic majority in Virginia, whenever an election is clear of simple local issues, is at least 20,000. We believe that a complete organization, zealously seconded by the masses of the Democratic party, with proper acceptable candidates on the State ticket and with the Legislature in their hands, will give us such a majority. There must be a mobilizing of the troops, and it must be of volunteers not conscripts. If our congressional delegation is wise and prudent, and recognizes the wishes of the people, and not the suggestions and management of interested leaders and managers in the distribution of Federal patronage, very great strength will be added to our force in the State elections, and the enemy will be robbed of much of his power. To sweep the State of Virginia, every move must be based on popularity with the masses. We must avoid jars in the counties. The candidates, State and county, must be men who will be put on the defensive, but who will be able to take the aggressive and show the corruptions and inequities of Virginia Radicalism. The candidates for Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, and Attorney-General must be of the highest, most acceptable, and popular order—men as free as possible from objection, and able on the hustings to sustain themselves and their party. The great thing to be done is to secure enthusiastic harmony in the party, and this can be done only by a proper selection of candidates and a proper active, earnest organization of the party in every county as well as for the State at large.

It seems to us that this is a modest claim.

A Working Cabinet.

If the public men who from time to time by invitation conferred with Mr. CLEVELAND were women they would, according to RIV V. WINKLE, make most excellent wives. A dumber lot of men were never known. The oyster of Captain PARR, of Virginia Constitutional Convention fame, does not demonstrate the common sense of keeping a "she" mouth more effectually than do these gentlemen. When it comes down to bottom facts, the public know no more now as to who will be in the Cabinet than they did three months ago. Nor are they likely to know anything definite as far as names are concerned until after the 4th of March. Of course, there are plenty of natural and logical inferences, but, after all, the best-laid inferences, like the best-laid plans of men, oft gang agley. All this is very annoying to the political prophet; but there is, nevertheless, an element of consolation in it. Amid all the doubt and speculation there appears to be one certainty, and that is that the Cabinet will be a Cabinet in fact as well as in name. The Boston Herald, after defining the duties of the President and of Cabinet-officers, says:

"It is obvious from this that the most necessary qualification of a member of the Cabinet is executive ability—the capacity, as it has been defined, to superintend the administration of a business department of the Government in such a way as to secure the most effective service in all its business." This prime qualification is wholly ignored in most of the current discussion and speculation as to the construction of the new Cabinet.

Every Administration, nearly, has furnished proof of the bad policy of constructing a Cabinet and leaving out of view the chief ends of its existence. The members should be men who will command the confidence of the country by their character and ability and who are in sympathy with the principles of their party and with the views and purposes of the President. But in addition to this they should be men fitted for the work which they will have to do, and capable of directing their departments with business-like efficiency. A man may never so brilliant and useful in other directions, but if he lack executive ability—the power to command, combined with a genius and capacity for hard work—he will fail as chief of an administrative department. Mr. Cleveland has let fall enough to make it clear that he wants a working Cabinet, distinguished for the executive force so prominent in his own character.

In other words, Mr. CLEVELAND means administrative reform from top to bottom. If he succeeds in this he will vindicate the Democratic party—vindicate the issue upon which he was elected. That involves an honest, business-like, representative Administration, and all the country could desire.

BRIEF COMMENT.

The SWAIN court-martial is as big a nuisance as is—well, ROUTLE.

"Canned goods is now sold in the States." That's a new way of putting up butter.

"Any superfluous timber that CLEVELAND has left over from making his Cabinet he can use up in the bureau." Or broom-handles.

"Colonel INGERSOLL announces that he will remain abroad five years." Colonel INGERSOLL has public permission to remain abroad forever.

The Philadelphia Press says: "BUTLER's name is not mentioned with levity in New Orleans and Baltimore." No; it is generally mentioned with abhorrence.

"SARAH BERNHARDT's anatomical fancy, a human skeleton, brought only sixty cents at the recent creditors' sale." Is it possible that SARAH brought only sixty cents?

The Indianapolis Sentinel says: "A French milliner has invented a bonnet trimmed with asses' ears." That sets a price on the head of nearly every member of the Kansas Legislature.

"The Secretary of the Treasury admits that he has been managing the Treasury Department so as to make it a sort of second fiddle to the New York banks." Playing a base vile accompaniment to their racket, as it were.

We nominate MURAT HALSTEAD to be Assistant False Prophet with the right of succession in case anything happens to the Mahdi. He is blood-thirsty enough to fill the bill, and never made a prophecy that was fulfilled in his life.

THE PHILADELPHIA HORROR.

Further Particulars of the Burning of the Almshouse.

The following details of the burning of the department of the insane of Blockley Almshouse, by which eighteen lunatics met death, is taken from late telegrams:

From all the conflicting accounts to be obtained, it appears pretty certain that the first alarm was given by an insane patient on the first floor of the main building. This man—Joseph Nadine—occupied a room adjoining the stairway and the drying-room, with about twenty other quiet patients. When, about ten o'clock, he saw a smoke issuing from above the door which opened into the wing in which the cells were situated, he ran to the big iron-plated door fronting on the main corridor of the building and cried out, "Fire!" This fearful cry reached the ears of Joseph Schroeder, the attendant of the ground floor, who was in his room, directly opposite the one from which Nadine had given the alarm. Mrs. Upstead, who has the general charge of the night, says that it is about 8 o'clock when the alarm reached her. She was in her office, about two hundred feet from the dry-room, and at once hurried to the scene. She says that an attempt was made to put out the flames with buckets of water, and at first it was supposed that the flames were only burning from the ground floor, near the stairway, but in almost an instant it was found that the real point from which the danger came was the second floor, at the top of and above the dry-room. She then tried to get all the patients from the main building extending back from the east wing. Attendant Schroeder takes up the thread of the story at this point, and thus relates some of the horrors of the dreadful night:

"I do not know who sounded the alarm. As soon as I heard Nadine's cry I rushed to the foot of the stairway, and after a short attempt to check the fire at once set to work to get out the patients. First I unlocked the door of the room in which Nadine and his companions were. They ran out at once. By this time the flames were gathering in fury, and dense volleys of smoke were ascending into the upper stories. I succeeded in unlocking the doors of all the cells on the first floor, and, although with difficulty in some cases, in getting all the inmates out. I had no time to look after them further than to run them into the yard, for the flames were getting so fierce that it was almost impossible to breathe in the now fiercely-burning building. The smoke in the upper stories was so thick that breathing was impossible. But my thoughts were for the inmates on the second floor. I met Mr. Hanna, the night watchman, who was also helping, and we went up to the third story, but were driven back by the flames, which had forced their way through the stairway and were creeping along to the cells of the doomed inmates. We ran around to the other stairway, near the new buildings on the west, and by that time the flames had reached the second story, so that there remained about twenty-eight on the third floor, twenty in the cells, and eight in the large common room on the west end.

LAUGHING AT AND CURSING THE FLAMES.

"The unfortunate occupants of the cells were being smothered to death by smoke, and perhaps blistered and burned by the flames. Their cries were heartrending. Some laughed hideously, and others yelled with pain with such awful cries as would have appalled the hardest heart. The firemen, myself, and a patient named Rafferty crawled on our hands and knees to such of the men as we could reach, and dragged out fourteen, eight of them alive, four of them dead, and one so horribly burned that they died before we could get them out of the building. We could not see any of the men in the cells, of course, but could hear their horrible cries above the roaring of the flames as they came to realize that a horrible fate was in store for them."

While Schroeder was going through this terrible experience the flames were extending to the main building of the department. The wing in which the victims were being burned alive was wrapped in flames, which were shooting many feet into the air and illuminating the streets of the city for many squares. At half-past 8 o'clock an alarm had been struck, and in half an hour a general alarm sounded. When the firemen arrived the fire was enveloping about one-third of the main building and burning fiercely. The two plugs in the yard gave but an indifferent supply of water.

HEROIC EFFORTS OF THE FIREMEN.

Truck F arrived on the scene soon after the first alarm, and its ladder was quickly run up to the third floor to the windows of the cells in which the maniacs were fastened. With axe and hook the firemen attacked the iron gratings of the cells, and succeeded in taking out seven men, four of them suffocated to death and three still alive. The last man thus rescued was the notorious "Jim" Burke, who has been in the institution over thirty years. He was brought from the Eastern penitentiary, where he was undergoing a life sentence for murder. He has killed since he has been in the insane department a cook and two attendants. The prisoner who rescued him states that he died while he was being taken to the ground. All of the inmates of the insane department were rescued safely except those in the third story of the wing in which the fire originated, the total loss of life being eighteen.

Dr. Alice Avery was the only physician in the building when the fire occurred. Dr. Richardson, the physician-in-chief, arrived from his home in a short time after the first alarm was given. There is nothing except wild theorizing as to what caused the fire. No facts are known which would justify any statement whatever. At 1 o'clock this morning the entire group of buildings making up the insane department was in flames, and there was no prospect of saving them, although the firemen had the fire well in hand, and all the other department buildings were safe. The loss to the property will amount to about \$150,000.

The six hundred and thirty inmates who were burned out of the various wards were, as far as possible and as soon as could be provided for in the outer wards and other parts of the almshouse. Many of them, however, escaped into the city and wandered about the streets, where some were captured by the police, and either returned to the institution or locked up in the station-houses. The bulk of them were taken to the hospital, and a large number were placed in the clinical lecture-room of the hospital. The women were stowed about the hospital as far as possible, and all were finally carried for. Nine bodies were discovered and placed in the dead-room. Only three of those had apparently died from burns received, the others evidently having been suffocated by smoke.

Dr. Biddle, a member of the hospital committee having charge of the insane department, says that there were absolutely no means of subduing a fire. There will be an investigation at once. Ward M, in which the unfortunate men met their deaths, was in charge of William Strain, a young man, who had his face singed before he could make his escape. Mr. Strain tells a terrible story. He says: "The rules of the institution require that the inmates be locked up at 8 o'clock every night. I had just succeeded in getting the eighty-seven men under my care to bed, and had sat down to make out my usual report, when somebody rushed into my apartment and shouted 'Fire!' In an instant the utmost confusion prevailed. The smoke came rolling up the stairway in volumes, and before we could hardly realize our position the flames burst in upon us.

"I tried to reach the cells where there were nineteen of the most violent patients confined. I knew they would be. I tried to reach the cells where there were nineteen of the most violent patients confined. I knew they would be. I tried to reach the cells where there were nineteen of the most violent patients confined. I knew they would be.

ROASTED TO DEATH.
 If the doors were not unlocked to let them out. My only thought was the liberation of those poor fellows. The smoke and flames poured into the ward, and before I had advanced far I was driven back by the flames. It was impossible for me to go another step forward, and so I had to fly for my own life. I barely got out alive. The right side of my face and my mouth were singed by the flames. I could hear the poor fellows in the cells hallooing and cursing like demons, for the fire was upon them.

"The thought of their slowly being roasted alive, coupled with their curses and piercing cries for help, was terrible. Oh God! I never lived through such frightful tortures of mind as I experienced during the few moments I was trying to grope my way out of the burning building. I could hear their cries and pounding; but they might as well have tried to get through a stone wall, as the cells were constructed with the special view of confining desperate and violent patients therein. When I reached the ground the other attendants and myself organized the inmates into a fire-brigade. An astonishing thing was the way in which the inmates worked in carrying water and trying to save some of the goods in the building. They shouted and encouraged one another and were of valuable assistance in trying to fight the flames during the early stages of the conflagration. But my thoughts were for the inmates on the poor wretches whom I knew were being consumed upon the third floor. As soon as the firemen arrived I told the men of Truck F about the occupants of the cells, and they raised their ladders to the windows and tore off the iron bars and rescued four of them. I do not know who they were or where they are, except one, John Burke, who had his feet so badly burned that he died afterwards."

Sergeant Moore, of the Third police district, also had his arm injured. Watchman Hanna said that he drove six men out of the wing being burned in Ward M. "I drove them out," he says, "and then tried to call them back and unlocked the door. Jacob Glassman occupied it, and he wanted me to leave him alone. I knew it was useless to talk to him, so I grabbed him and hurried him out. When I was passing through the bed-room from which I had driven the six men only a moment before I found that two of them had returned to their beds, though I had tried to compel them to leave from the flames. I compelled them to leave, and they helped to get about thirty feeble men out of the infirmary." The buildings were erected in 1830, and they are only partially insured.

Horsford's Bread Preparation adds 10 per cent. to the value of flour. The eminent Baron Liebig, the greatest chemist in the world, says: "It is certain that the nutritive value of flour is increased 10 per cent. by the addition of your Bread Preparation, and the result is the same as if the fertility of our wheat-fields had been increased by that amount."

MARRIAGES.
 MANSFIELD and HEDSON—Married, February 12th, by Rev. A. C. Hedson, at the residence of her father, W. R. Pugh, 1111 N. 11th St., of this city, to W. P. MANSFIELD, of Spotsylvania county, Va.

DEATHS.
 BLANKENSHIP—Died at his residence, No. 305 College street, after a few hours illness, THOMAS H. BLANKENSHIP, in the forty-fourth year of his age.
 Notice of funeral hereafter.

CREW—Died, Thursday the 12th, at 6:30 P. M., at his residence, 1111 N. 11th St., of this city, the son of W. Hall and Irene W. Crew, in the twenty-fourth year of his age.
 The funeral will be held at the City and County depot at 12:45 o'clock, this afternoon, and conveyed to Hollywood Cemetery.

DEAN—Died, February 13th, at 12:45 o'clock, WILLIAM H. DEAN, in the forty-second year of his age.
 The funeral will take place from his late residence, No. 1111 N. 11th St., of this city, on SUNDAY, February 14th, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

WILLSON—Died, February 12th, of dropsy, in Hanover county, Va. FRANK C. WILLSON, Jr., aged five years and eleven months, son of F. C. Willson.
 The funeral will take place to-day (Saturday) at 12 o'clock, at the City and County depot, and conveyed to Hollywood Cemetery.

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 The funeral will be held at the City and County depot at 12:45 o'clock, this afternoon, and conveyed to Hollywood Cemetery.

DEAN—Died, February 13th, at 12:45 o'clock, WILLIAM H. DEAN, in the forty-second year of his age.
 The funeral will take place from his late residence, No. 1111 N. 11th St., of this city, on SUNDAY, February 14th, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

WILLSON—Died, February 12th, of dropsy, in Hanover county, Va. FRANK C. WILLSON, Jr., aged five years and eleven months, son of F. C. Willson.
 The funeral will take place to-day (Saturday) at 12 o'clock, at the City and County depot, and conveyed to Hollywood Cemetery.

Dyspepsia will make You Angry.—Dyspepsia, Gravel, Biliousness, Headache, Stomach Troubles, Indigestion, Nervousness, Irritability, and all the ailments arising from a disordered stomach, can be cured by taking Dr. J. C. Ayer's Dyspepsia Remedy. It is a powerful and reliable medicine, and will cure all the ailments arising from a disordered stomach. It is a powerful and reliable medicine, and will cure all the ailments arising from a disordered stomach.

THE FIRST AND SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Dr. HOGUE at 11 A. M. and 4 P. M.

OLD-MARKET HALL.—Dr. HOGUE will preach to-morrow night at Old-Market Hall at half-past 7 o'clock. The choir will meet at 7 o'clock.

THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Sunday school, 9:30 A. M. Rev. R. H. HOGUE, pastor, at 11 A. M. and 4 P. M. Seats free.

FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Grace above Shafter—Rev. P. H. HOGUE, pastor, at 11 A. M. and 4 P. M. Seats free. Public cordially invited.

GRACE-STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Services at 11 o'clock A. M. and 7:45 o'clock P. M. Preaching by Rev. Dr. HOGUE. A cordial welcome to all.

FRIENDS' MEETING.—Dr. RICHARD THOMAS and Miss MARY SNOWDEN THOMAS, LYDIA HAVILLAND, and JOSEPH P. ELLIOTT, all of Baltimore, and all ministers in the Society of Friends, will be here for several days for the purpose of holding a series of meetings. There will be three meetings on the Sabbath—viz: at 11 o'clock A. M., 3:30 and 7:30 P. M. Seats free, and the public are invited to attend.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH.—(corner of Twelfth and Broad streets)—Preaching to-morrow by Rev. Dr. B. W. WILSON, D. D., at 11 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Baptism at night.

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH.—(corner Main and Sixth streets)—Rev. GEORGE C. NEEDHAM will preach at 11 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. A cordial welcome extended to all.

GRACE-STREET BAPTIST CHURCH.—(corner Grace and Foshee streets)—Preaching by the pastor, Rev. WILLIAM E. HATCHER, D. D., at 11 o'clock A. M., after which the Lord's Supper will be administered. Sunday school at 9:30 A. M.